

**Ammanford Urban
District Council.**

**Medical Officer of
Health's**

Report

For 1945.



Rowland A. McMillan,

Medical Officer of Health.

"Amman Valley Chronicle," Ammanford.

Ammanford Urban District Council.

AMMANFORD,

JUNE, 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1945.

MILK SAMPLES.

The collection and sampling of Milk sold in the Ammanford Area is now undertaken by the War Agricultural Executive Committee. Whether or not this will prove advantageous to the Local Authority in their determination to have "clean" Milk supplied to the Ammanford people will have to be decided by time.

REHABILITATION.

For years many men in Ammanford have been condemned to the industrial scrap-heap as the result of Silicosis or the effects of industrial accident.

It is only recently that the country has realised that occupational damage has in the past been too often neglected or at least wrongly regarded. Realising this, the Government has drawn up an ambitious but long overdue programme of Rehabilitation, that is, the finding of suitable work for these displaced persons.

One Factory has been built in Ammanford with this in view. Let us hope it is only a beginning, and that more factories will follow.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Dr. R. A. McMillan (Part-Time).

Mr. L. Sunderland, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District	...	...	...	...	944 Acres
Population	...	...	...	...	6,403
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	1,792
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£29,018
Net Produce of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£100

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births during the Year:—

			M		F		Total
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	37	...	41	...	78
		Illegitimate	2	...	6	...	8
Still Births Legitimate	...	...	4	...	6	...	10
		Illegitimate	0	...	0	...	0

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year:—

			M		F		Total
Legitimate	...	...	4	...	2	...	6
Illegitimate	...	...	0	...	1	...	1

INFECTIOUS FEVERS

Disease Notified	No. of Cases Notified	Ratio per 1,000 Civilian Population	
		Ammanford U.D.C.	England & Wales
Scarlet Fever	14	0.22	1.89
Whooping Cough	3	0.047	1.64
Diphtheria	1	0.015	0.46
Erysipelas	3	0.047	0.25
Measles	26	0.40	11.67
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	0.015	no figure
Pneumonia	4	0.06	0.87

It will be seen from the above figures that the Ammanford Urban Area compares very favourably with the average figures for England and Wales.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

	0-4 years	5-14 years	Total
Child Population	490	880	1370
Number Immunised	356	692	1048
Number of Children 0-14 Immunised in 1945	...	...	141

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1945.

			M.		F.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	7	...	1
Influenza	...	...	1	...	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	0	...	1
Cancer	...	...	6	...	6
Intra-Cranial Vascular Disease	...	...	5	...	3
Heart Disease	...	...	8	...	13
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	1	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	1	...	0
Pneumonia	...	...	0	...	1
Other Respiratory Disease	...	...	4	...	0
Gastric or Duodenal Ulcer	...	...	1	...	1
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	0	...	2
Nephritis	...	...	1	...	1
Maternal Causes	...	...	0	...	2

					M	F
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	2	1
Congenitive Malformations	}	...	...	...	2	0
Birth Injuries						
Disease of Infancy						
Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	0
Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	2	0
All other Causes	...	...	...	...	1	5
					44	38

Ratio per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still).

(a) NOTIFICATION:

			Ammanford	England and Wales
Puerperal Fever	}	...	—	9.93
Puerperal Pyrexia		...	—	—

(b) Maternal Mortality ... 0.03 1.79

ABORTION:

	Ammanford	England and Wales
Mortality rate per 1,000 women, aged 15 to 45	—	0.024

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases				Deaths.			
Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
6	6	1	2	7	1	—	—

Age Periods—14½ to 46 and 2 to 33.

Tuberculosis.

The Welsh National Memorial Association holds a Clinic every Tuesday at 10.30 a.m. at 24a, Quay Street. Dr. J. T. Jones and a Nurse are in attendance.

The allowances scheme for Tuberculosis sufferers is under the care of the P.A.C.

HOSPITAL PROVISION.

1. For Infectious Fevers ... Tumble Isolation Hospital
Penygroes Isolation Hospital
These are under the control of the County Council.
2. For Tuberculosis ... Hospital treatment for this Disease is undertaken by the Welsh National Memorial Association.

3. General	...	Swansea General and Eye Hospital Amman Valley Hospital Morrison E.M.S. Hospital
4. Accidents	...	Swansea Hospital Morrison E.M.S. Hospital
5. Maternity	...	Amman Valley Hospital Carmarthen Hospital Poor Law Institution, Llandilo
6. Orthopaedic	...	Swansea Hospital Cardiff—under School Clinic
7. Unmarried Mothers Illegitimate Infants Homeless Children	}	Accommodation is provided at the Poor Law Institution, Llandilo
8. Venereal Diseases (Free Treatment)		Swansea Hospital Llanelly Hospital

CLINICS.

Ante-Natal Clinic	...	1. At the Clinic, High Street, on Tuesday Mornings. Dr. G. Herbert and Nurses in attendance. 2. Amman Valley Hospital, Mondays, at 1 p.m.
Infant Welfare	...	At the Clinic, High Street, every other Tuesday afternoon. Dr. A. Morgan and Nurses in attend- ance.
School Clinics: 1, Orthopædic 2, Eye	}	Are held under the control of the County Authority

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

A St. John's Ambulance is stationed in the Town.

MIDWIVES.

There are three fully qualified Midwives residing and practising in the Area.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of Water for the District was again plentiful throughout the year, and the Filters and Chlorination Plant have continued to work satisfactorily. In so far as possible under the abnormal conditions of pressure, a constant supply is maintained in the higher reaches of the District by means of a Hydrostat fixed on Ammanford Square.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Sewers have again functioned throughout the year without trouble. The system is by gravitation to the Ritter Beds, and is under the control of the Amman Valley Joint Sewerage Board. The number of Houses remaining to be connected to the Sewers is four, some progress having been made with the work of securing connection during the war years. It is hoped that, with a return to Peace conditions, the remaining Houses will be connected during the coming year.

RIVERS, Etc., POLLUTION.

No action was taken by the Local Authority in this matter during the year under review.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The statistics in this matter are as follows:—

No. of Houses with Closets on the Water Carriage System connected to Sewers	...	...	...	...	1760
No. of Houses with Closets on the Water Carriage System connected to Cesspits, remaining to be connected to Sewers					3
No. of Houses with Closets built on the Conservancy System, not able to connect to Sewers	...	...	...	...	8
No. of Houses remaining to be connected	...	...	...	...	4

The matter of securing the connection of the remaining Houses is now in hand, and it is hoped that connection will have been secured before the end of the year 1946.

PUBLIC CLEANSING—DRY REFUSE.

The Council undertakes the removal of all Dry House Refuse, collections being made by the Council Lorry thrice weekly from the centre of the Town, and twice weekly from the outlying parts. The Refuse, when collected, is tipped at Myddinfych Farm, Pantyffynnon Farm, Penybank Football Field, and Bettws Park. All the Tipping Grounds, with the exception of Bettws Park are outside the Urban Area. Trade Refuse from Fruiterers and Fishmongers' shops is disposed of by the tradesmen by tipping on a farm near the top of Bettws Mountain. In my opinion, immediately the supply position improves, steps should be taken to enforce the provision by Householders of proper Dustbins, as all kinds of insanitary receptacles are now used. It has always been the exception to see a proper covered Dustbin in the streets of the Town, all kinds of boxes, tins and buckets being used for the purpose. Under the provisions of Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, the provision of a proper covered Dustbin can be enforced.

PRIVIES, CESSPITS, Etc.

The contents of the remaining Pail Closets are buried by the Householders in their gardens, and the Cesspits, being built on a soakaway principle, no clearance is required, the subsoil being of a porous nature,

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

No. of Inspections made for Nuisances	...	...	716
No. of Informal Notices served	...	...	57
No. of Statutory Notices served	...	...	3
No. of Water Leakage Inspections	...	...	317
No. of Water Leakage Notices	...	...	146

The Statutory Notices were:—

To replace Broken Inspection Covers	...	...	2
To remove Insanitary Accumulation	...	...	1

The whole of the Statutory Notices were complied with.

CAMPING SITES.

During the War, the Council granted Licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1946, for the use of a site at the Old Chemical Works, Pontamman, for a number of Vans. These Licences have not yet been withdrawn.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was necessary under this head.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in the Urban Area.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No. of Council Houses found to be infested	...	...	Nil
No. of other Houses found to be infested	...	...	2
No. of Houses disinfested	...	...	2

The method employed for Disinfestation was spraying the surfaces of walls, ceilings and floors with "Zaldecide," containing D.D.T., and fumigating with Sulphur Dioxide. Four pounds of Sulphur were used per 1,000 cubic feet, and fumigation was carried out twice at intervals of two weeks. The work was carried out by the occupiers, and was superintended by the Sanitary Inspector, who subsequently keeps the premises under observation to guard against re-infestation.

SCHOOLS.

There are five Schools and two Private Schools, and frequent visits are paid to them. The sanitary condition of the Schools is excellent, each being provided with modern sanitary conveniences connected to the Sewers, and with an abundant supply of water from the Council mains.

SPECIAL CLASSES OF PREMISES SUBJECT TO CONTROL OF LOCAL AUTHORITY.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the area, nor are there any Registered Houses let in Lodgings.

HOUSING.

Inspection of Houses during the year:—

- 1.—(a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing Defects under Public or Housing Acts ... 126
- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... 201
- 2.—Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... Nil
- 3.—Number of Houses found to be not in all respects fit for human habitation ... 46

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice:

Number of Defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit during the year in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 28

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- (1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring Defects to be remedied ... 28
- (2) No. of Dwelling Houses which were made fit after Service of Formal Notice ... 16

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

- (1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring Defects to be remedied ... 18
- (2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which Defects were remedied after Service of Formal Notices ... 18

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- (1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

No action was taken, as there are no Tenements or Underground Rooms occupied in the Area ... Nil

Housing Act 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding:—

- (a)—(1) Number of Houses Overcrowded at the end of the year 36
- (2) Number of Families Dwelling therein ... 77
- (3) Number of Persons Dwelling therein ... 251
- (b) Number of new cases of Overcrowding reported during the year ... 20
- (c)—(1) Number of cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year ... Nil
- (2) Number of Families Dwelling therein ... Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF THE FOOD SUPPLY. MILK.

Number of Purveyors of Milk on the Register	...	39
Number of Cowsheds in the Urban Area	...	14
Number of Milk Shops in the Urban Area	...	5
Number of Inspections made	...	128
Number of Producers from outside who retail Milk in the Urban Area	...	12
One Retailer sells Pasteurised Milk, which is produced, treated and bottled outside the Area.		

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Foodstuffs exposed for sale in the shops are regularly examined so as to protect the Public from the consumption of Unsound Food. Meat is now brought into the district from Ministry Stores and Abattoirs, so no Slaughtering is done at Ammanford.

BAKEHOUSES.

Number of Bakehouses on the Register	...	6
Number of Inspections made	...	24

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the Area. No action was taken by the Local Authority in the matter.

NUTRITION.

Dissemination of Knowledge.—

Particulars of any special work	...	Nil
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INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of Houses fumigated after cases of Infectious Diseases	...	65
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Free Disinfectants are supplied by the Council, and the rooms are fumigated with Formalin Vapour after the period of isolation is ended, or immediately the patient is removed to hospital. No facilities exist in the district for the cleansing of verminous persons or their goods.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number of Factories on the Register	...	66
No of Inspections made	...	104

CONTROL OF RATS AND MICE.

Under the terms of the Infestation Order, considerable work has been done in an effort to control the Rat population. One operative is kept on the work constantly, and the Rat population has, from all the evidence, been considerably reduced.

Your obedient Servant,

ROWLAND A. McMILLAN,

M.O.H.

